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# APPENDIX C - VISIONING WORKSHOP

A community-wide workshop for the Riverside Study was held on July 16, 2001 at the Cambridge Senior Center. Over 100 people attended. After an introductory presentation attendees divided into five groups to explore their visions for Riverside. The groups then reassembled and the group facilitators reported the results. Large format records of each group's vision statements were hung on the walls. Following the facilitators' reports those in attendance were given stars to apply to the statements they felt were most important. The following vision statements, comments and suggestions each received at least one star. The issues raised in the visioning workshop were taken into account by the Study Committee in drafting its recommendations.

## **Building Height and Density**

- Low density
- Height/density restrictions
- C -1 scale of zoning (especially Athens and Banks, also whole neighborhood)
- Rezone Residence C - 35' height limit
- Against any kind of development

## **Housing**

- Primarily residential
- Affordable housing
- Affordable rental housing
- Subsidized housing at 2 Mt. Auburn Street
- Promote local ownership
- More family housing



*Figure C. 1 Visioning Workshop*

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- Better use of existing housing stock

## **Commercial**

- Small shops on River Street and Western Avenue
- More small shops/fewer chains
- More mom and pop businesses/grocery stores

## **Open Space**

- Provide more open space
- Open space on Grant Street
- Triangle next to Police Station should be open for pedestrians to rest

## **Riverfront**

- MDC should do landscaping along river
- MDC land maintenance
- Riverfront for the neighborhood - human scale/use

- MDC bridges in deplorable shape
- Make bridges comfortable for pedestrians

### **Community Facilities**

- Create a cultural arts center
- Support community center
- Place for teens to hang out
- Teens/resources/activities
- King School is ugly
- Improve King School, King School maintenance
- Want flourishing schools
- Want community gardens
- Make community building (or some use) out of building by Corporal Burns Park
- Building in Corporal Burns Park should be used as a public amenity with toilets, food, drink. Building should be used by neighborhood

### **Institutional**

- Harvard should divest itself of Riverside property
- Harvard/MIT access by community members
- Harvard could sell housing back to residents (particularly in Grant Street area)
- Harvard engulfing river as center point of campus

### **Streets/Sidewalks/Bike Paths**

- Sidewalks should be maintained
- Fix crumbling sidewalks
- Brick sidewalks
- Big light fixtures above the tree canopy don't light the sidewalk and shine in people's windows. Redesign street lighting to put lights below tree canopy.
- Not enough lighting on Franklin Street
- Sidewalks/streets/bike paths
- Western Avenue beautified
- Pedestrian-only streets
- More bike paths
- Put wires underground
- Wooden fences, not wire

### **Traffic**

- Better control of traffic
- Traffic a threat



*Figure C. 2 Visioning Workshop*

- Safety - more responsible cars, bikes, pedestrians
- Truck traffic/hazardous materials (get rid of)
- Putnam Avenue/reduce Sunday traffic
- Traffic on Putnam Avenue - Callendar Community Center
- Traffic calming on Western Avenue
- Traffic calming at major intersections
- Need safe way to cross Memorial Drive to river
- Traffic lights (4-5) on Western Avenue and River Street, speed limit 25 mph
- Extend Riverbend Park to Hyatt Regency - traffic would dissipate - create less cut - through traffic on Putnam
- Buses - squeaky brakes, fumes

### **Parking**

- Franklin Street - police should use public transportation

### **Public Transit**

- Make a monorail system

### **High Water Table/Sewers**

- High water table a problem
- Get answers from City re. sewers overflowing

### **Social/Ethnic/Economic**

- Ethnic and social diversity
- Maintain diversity; maintain neighborhood ownership
- People having contact with other people is good

- Jobs
- Use as business satellite sites
- Love the neighborhood

### **Mahoney's Site**

- Park at Mahoney's
- Make Mahoney's a park (needed for neighborhood feel of river access)
- Mahoney's site as a park - not just for neighborhood - broader imagination as to who it serves
- Keep it a garden center

### **NStar Site**

- NStar renovated and turned into a museum
- NStar could be the Harvard museum site instead of Mahoney's
- NStar site is important
- NStar could be used for housing
- Make community cultural center (museum and studios and community centers)
- Keep NStar parking lot on Putnam Avenue un-built

### **Banks, Grant, Athens Cowperthwaite Streets**

- Opposed to Banks Street development
- Banks, Grant Street area should be rezoned as C -1 (residential and small local shops)

### **Process**

- Communicate/collaborate with Cambridgeport



*Figure C. 3 Visioning Workshop*

